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First Lady to Join Volunteers in Celebrating AmeriCorps Nebraska

(Lincoln, Neb.) Nebraska First Lady Sally Ganem will join the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission (NVSC) in celebrating the 2005-2006 AmeriCorps Nebraska Kick-Off at the Carol Joy Holling Conference and Retreat Center Oct. 5-6 in Ashland. Nebraska's five divisions of AmeriCorps groups will begin a new year of service with two days of interactive training and team-building activities for more than 100 volunteers.

Ganem said, "Volunteers across Nebraska contribute time and effort improving their communities. Few outlets have been more effective in channeling that energy than AmeriCorps, which offers a great way to serve the common good. They are part of the backbone of Nebraska communities, building strength throughout our state."

Workshops on problem-solving, professional development, team-building and community improvement will be led by representatives from Omaha Public Power District, Volunteer Partners, Community Health Endowment, Lutheran Family Services, Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, the Mediation Center, Munroe Meyer Institute and the NVSC.

Highlights of the Kick-Off celebration, hosted by the NVSC, will include:

- An initiation ceremony at 10 a.m. CT Oct. 5 for each volunteer presided over by First Lady and NVSC Honorary Chairwoman Sally Ganem
- A full day of fun and challenging team-building activities Oct. 6 designed to foster unity throughout Nebraska's volunteer service programs

AmeriCorps is a national service program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. AmeriCorps state programs provided more than 150,000 hours of volunteer service to communities throughout Nebraska last year.

The NVSC strengthens Nebraska's spirit of service through partnerships, national service and volunteerism. The commission is led by up to 25 Governor-appointed volunteer commissioners and six paid staffers.

For more details about this year's celebration visit <http://www.nvsc.ne.gov>

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